WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An antibody that immunospecifically-binds to p-cadherin or a fragment thereof.

2. The antibody of claim 1 wherein said p-cadherin has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:39.

3. The antibody of claim 2, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

4. The antibody of claim 2, wherein said antibody is an antibody fragment selected from the group consisting of a FV fragment, a Fab fragment, (Fab)2 fragment, a single chain antibody.

5. The antibody of claim 4 wherein said antibody is conjugated with at least one polyethylene glycol moiety.

6. The antibody of claim 3 wherein said antibody is an antagonist.

7. The antibody of claim 6 wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

8. The antibody of claim 6 wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

9. A method of identifying an agent that binds to p-cadherin comprising:

(a) contacting p-cadherin with said agent; and

(b) determining whether said agent binds to p-cadherin.

10. A method for identifying an agent that modulates the expression or activity of p-cadherin comprising:

(a) providing a cell expressing said polypeptide in an operational manner;

(b) contacting the cell with said agent; and

(c) determining whether the agent modulates expression or activity of said polypeptide;

whereby an alteration in expression or activity of p-cadherin indicates said agent modulates expression or activity of p-cadherin.

11. A method of treating or preventing a cancer-associated disorder, said method comprising administering to a subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired said antibody of claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat or prevent said cancer-associated disorder in said subject.

12. A method of detecting differentially expressed genes correlated with a cancerous state of a mammalian cell, the method comprising the step of detecting at least one differentially expressed gene product in a test sample derived from a cell suspected of being cancerous, where the gene product is encoded by a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 wherein detection of differentially expressed product is correlated with a cancerous state of the cell from which the test sample was derived.

13. A method for monitoring the progression of a cancer in a patient, the method comprising:

a) detecting in a patient sample at a first point in time, the expression of a marker, wherein the marker a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1;

b) repeating step a) at a subsequent point in time; and

c) comparing the level of expression detected in steps a) and b), and therefrom monitoring the progression of the cancer.

14. A method of assessing the efficacy of a test compound for inhibiting a cancer in a patient, the method comprising comparing:

a) expression of a marker in a first sample obtained from the patient exposed to the test compound, wherein the marker is selected the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, and

b) expression of the marker in a second sample obtained from the patient, wherein the sample is not exposed to the test compound,

wherein a significantly lower level of expression of the marker in the first sample, relative to the second sample, is an indication that the test compound is efficacious for inhibiting the cancer in the patient.